

The Nativity of Our Lord

THE VOLUNTARY *In Dulci Jubilo* J.S. Bach

* THE PROCESSIONAL CAROL No. 234 *Adeste Fideles*
O Come All Ye Faithful

* THE CALL TO WORSHIP

Minister: Glory to God in the highest.

People: And on earth peace and good will toward men.

*Minister: Behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy,
which shall be to all people.*

People: Glory be to God on High.

*Minister: For a child has been born for us, a son given to
us; authority rests upon his shoulders;*

**People: And he is named Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of
Peace.**

* THE LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

*Jesus Christ is the Light of the World!
A light no darkness can diminish.*

* THE CANTICLE OF LIGHT AND DARKNESS No. 205
Response 3

THE COLLECT

*The almighty God bless us with divine grace, Christ give us the
joys of everlasting life, and unto the fellowship of the citizens
above may the King of Angels bring us all. Amen.*

THE FIRST LESSON Isaiah 9:2-7 OT Pg. 638

**Response: Whom do you behold, O shepherds? Tell us. Declare
to us the tidings, on earth who has appeared? We saw the
newborn infant, and the choir of angels, praising the Lord
together. Alleluia, alleluia!**

ANTHEM *Mary Did You Know* Mark Lowry
Ann Marie Martin and Emily Steiner, soloists

THE SECOND LESSON Titus 2:11-14 NT Pg. 215

**Response: The Angel said unto the shepherds, "Behold, I bring
you joyful tidings. For unto you is born this day the world's
Redeemer." Alleluia!**

* WELCOMING THE GOSPEL No. 238 *Gloria*
Angels We Have Heard on High
stanzas 1 & 2

* THE GOSPEL Luke 2:1-20 NT Pg. 58

* CELEBRATING THE GOSPEL No. 238 *Gloria*
Angels We Have Heard on High
stanzas 3 & 4

THE MEDITATION Rev. Randle

THE OFFERTORY ANTHEM Adolphe Adam
O Holy Night
Josh Tietje, soloist

* PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS Doxology No. 95

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION No. 13
The Great Thanksgiving
The Lord's Prayer
Giving the Bread and Cup

This evening, Holy Communion will be celebrated by Intinction. The ushers will direct worshippers towards one of three stations to receive the elements. Please commune and pray until you are led to return to your seat. The Communion Offering left at the Chancel Rail will go for Pedro's medical needs.

COMMUNION ANTHEM John Leavitt
He Is Born

CONGREGATIONAL HYMNS
Sung during Communion

Away in a Manger No. 217
What Child Is This No. 219
Infant Holy, Infant Lowly No. 229

THE LIGHTING OF THE CONGREGATIONAL CANDLES

As the acolytes pass the light to members of the congregation, pass it to the person next to you. DO NOT TIP a lighted candle. While the light is being passed, the Minister reads the following:

* LESSON OF LIGHT John 1:1-14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. ⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. ¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

* THE CAROL OF LIGHT No. 239 *Stille Nacht*

Silent Night, Holy Night

* THE BENEDICTION

* HYMN OF PEACE No. 431 *World Peace*

Let There Be Peace on Earth

*Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.
Let there be peace on earth the peace that was meant to be.
With God our Creator, children all are we.
Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony.*

*Let peace begin with me; let this be the moment now.
With every step I take let this be my solemn vow.
To take each moment and live each moment
With peace eternally.*

*Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.
(All extinguish candles)*

VOLUNTARY *Gloria (from Magnificat VI)* Marcel Dupre

* Congregation Standing



NOTES FOR WORSHIP

Numbers by the hymns, Affirmation of Faith, and Doxology are from the United Methodist Hymnal and The Faith We Sing Hymnal (TFWS) found in the pew racks. Old Testament and New Testament scripture readings are from the New Revised Standard Version, located in the pew. Page numbers for the readings are listed in the order of worship.

THINGS TO KNOW WHILE WORSHIPPING AT FIRST UMC

We are grateful that you have chosen to worship with us today. We hope that you will receive a blessing from the service. If you don't already have a church home, it is our hope that you will consider letting First Church fill that need.

The Nursery is located on the first floor of the Education Wing in Rm. 118. Our nursery is staffed with paid professionals and loving volunteers. Parents are asked to sign in their children and check out a pager, so that we may contact you should the need arise during worship.

A restroom is located in the Narthex, the Parlor, and the first floor of the Education Wing. Baby Changing Stations are located in the Nursery, Rm. 118.

In the hustle and bustle of getting ourselves ready for church, it is easy to forget to turn off our cell phones. We offer this gentle reminder to please turn cell phones off so that the worship service is not disrupted by them.



A very merry Christmas to all who come to worship the Christ Child. Our liturgy this evening is the special Eucharist from which comes the word "Christmas." It is the Christ Mass, the incarnation of our Lord and Savior in a manger in Bethlehem, in the Word of proclamation, in the sacrament of Holy Communion, and in our hearts as we take him into the world.

Ancient scriptures combine with candles, carols, and bright array to tell the story of the Christ Child's birth in the quiet of this special night. In the intimacy of this hour, we meditate by the manger, and in awe adore him as the infant God and King.

The First Church Family wishes you a blessed Christmas. The church office will be closed December 26 and January 2. The staff thanks you for this time to celebrate with our families and friends.

Come worship with us this Christmas Season

Sunday, December 25

10:30 a.m. Morning Worship

Sunday, January 1

9:30 a.m. Sunday School

10:30 a.m. Morning Worship

Wednesday, January 4

2:30 p.m. Children are picked up at school.

3:15 p.m. Follow That Star / FLC

5:30 p.m. Wednesday Evening Meal / Fellowship Hall

6:30 p.m. Epiphany Celebration / Sanctuary

Special thanks to all the volunteers who have helped to make this Christmas Season a blessing. From the beautiful decorations, to the musical offerings, to the warm fellowship of meals and gatherings, and the outpouring to missions.

First UMC, you are the hands and feet of our Lord.

Merry Christmas!



For those who placed a poinsettia in the Sanctuary this Christmas, we invite you to take them with you following the **Christmas Day Service**.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service



December 24, 2016

5:00 p.m.

First United Methodist Church

1001 Fifth Avenue

Conway, South Carolina 29526

www.fumcconway.org